IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

22.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution method for distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each other~~to distribute digital content via a network~~, digital contents distribution method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by said vending device, digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating, by said center database center, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing, by said center database center, distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, by said vending device, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

Claim 23 (canceled).

24.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

generating, by a digitizing device, a digital content by digitizing an original content and transmitting, from said digitizing device to a recognition device, a request for confirmation of content of said digital content;

executing, by said recognition device, in response to said request, confirmation of said content of said digital content by determining whether said content of said digital content has been generated without error and transmitting, by said recognition device, a message indicating whether said content is to be recognized based on said determination; and

receiving, by said digitizing device, said message and accumulating said content of said digital content if said content of said digital content has been recognized.

Claim 25 (canceled).

26.   (previously presented)   A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding said stores, and instructing

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distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

a sales section for selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

Claims 27 and 28 (canceled).

29.   (currently amended)A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each other~~executing a digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network~~, said program when executed causes said digital contents distribution system to perform ~~said method comprising~~ the steps of:

selecting, by said vending device, digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating, by said content database center, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing, by said content database center, distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, <u>by said vending device,</u> at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

Claim 30 (canceled).

32.   (currently amended)A program file storing a program for <u>distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each other</u>~~distributing a digital contents via a network~~, said program when executed causes <u>said digital contents distribution system</u> ~~a computer~~ to perform the steps of:

selecting<u>, by said vending device,</u> digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating<u>, by said content database center,</u> a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing<u>, by said content database center,</u> distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, <u>by said vending device,</u> at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.